Approved For Release 2004/11/30 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100140035-5

CONFIDENTIAL

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

CIA\OCI\WH12WH 740715

Date: July 15, 1974
Item No.: WH #2

(2)

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RESIGNATION OF JAPANESE FINANCE MINISTER

25X1

Press reports indicate that Finance Minister Fukuda, a key figure in Prime Minister Tanaka's government, may resign early this week. Tanaka is still reeling from the resignation last week of Deputy Prime Minister Miki, who quit in protest over Tanaka's handling of the recent Upper House election campaign.

Fukuda's resignation would greatly weaken Tanaka's hold on the ruling conservative party and the government. Fukuda, an important faction leader in the ruling party, has long been a major rival of Tanaka, and may feel that if he does not take advantage of Tanaka's current weakness, he may forever lose his chance to become Prime Minister.

25X1

Approved For Release 2004/11/30 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100140035-5